

Reissue (T660)

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[Part I] To the Director.

RANDOLPH [RANDOL'F] [1] sends the contents of his conversations [a] with the editor of the military department of the "New York Times", BALDWIN, the Republican attorney KERN (stands close to Governor DEWEY) and with the editor of P.M., LERNER.

1. BALDWIN's statement:

(a) The American General Staff thinks that essentially the war is already won and therefore they can avoid a major struggle, [C% leaving it to] the USSR to hold back the German Army;

(b) In the General Staff he was told that Germany was not in a condition to undertake a further offensive this summer on the scale of 1941 and 1942. The Red Army could itself take initiative sooner than the Germans [1 group unrecovered] the offensive which is being prepared in the OREL-BRYANSK area.

(c) American strategy remains as before -- to play for time, waiting for the results of blockades, bombing and the Germans' losses on the Eastern front. For these reasons the production of tanks and [1 group unrecovered] arms for the land forces is now being slowed down.

(d) There will be no invasion of Western Europe this year. Next year it will depend on the scale of German losses during the summer and winter 1943 - 1944.

(e) In the Mediterranean theatre as before - leapfrog from island to island without risking big losses using enormous forces;

(f) An invasion of the Balkans might take place, [but] [b] not before autumn and only if Sardinia, Sicily and the Dodecanese Islands have been taken and if the German Army is involved in large-scale operations in the East;

(g) Turkey will enter the war only after

[13 groups unrecoverable]

are exaggerated; losses will reach 15 - 20%. ROOSEVELT and CHURCHILL [6 groups unrecovered] bombing, as this conforms with the refusal to open a second front.

(i) Operations in the Pacific theatre [1 group unrecovered] situation, a large-scale advance will be begun in the late autumn in Burma. At the moment planes and troops are being sent to this theatre rather than to the Mediterranean.

Part II] 2. KERN's statement:

(a) DEWEY is convinced that there will not be a front in Europe this year. DEWEY told KERN about an unofficial discussion of this question at the conference of governors (in June); there the [C% firm] opinion was expressed that the war would last another 2 - 3 years as the British and Americans no longer want to allow any big losses in men for political motives;

(b) The Republicans want to use the slowing down of operations at the front as an argument against ROOSEVELT's candidacy for a fourth term as President.

3. LERNER's statement:

(a) Conversations in Government circles have convinced him that there will be no second front in Europe this year.

(b) ROOSEVELT and CHURCHILL [5 groups unrecovered], trying to show that they are preparing to open a second front, but in actual fact their plan is the exhaustion of both Germany and the USSR in the East and then a deal with the industrialists and military circles in Germany; talks with industrialists have not been stopped.

(c) The State Department has put pressure on BENES trying to force him to a rapprochement with the Polish Government. BENES did not [2 groups unrecovered] them [1 group unrecovered], but was amazed at the scale of the influence in the U.S.A. of anti-soviet groups.

4. The information is essentially a confirmation of reports received earlier from other sources. All three are well-informed sources especially the first two. We consider in general

[5 groups unrecoverable]

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MOLIERE [MOL'ER] [11]

T.N.: [a] Or "conversation".

[b] Inserted by translator.

Comments:

[1] RANDOL'F: Not identified.

[11] MOL'ER: Pavel P. MIKHAILOV, GRU Resident in NEW YORK.

25 March 1966